New Polls Heighten Intensity in Political Race

Added by Patrick Geshan on February 19, 2015

A new CNN/ORC poll shows an almost deadlocked race for the Nevada Democratic Caucus between Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders with the official vote taking place Saturday.

The poll, which came out late Wednesday, gives Clinton a slight advantage with 48% of the vote, and predicts Sanders is not far behind with 47%. The results come following a big win for Bernie Sanders in the New Hampshire Primaries, where the self-described socialist from Vermont edged Clinton out by double digits.

Meanwhile, The South Carolina Primary will also take place Saturday. Clinton has much better numbers in The Palmetto State, especially from the minority voters and African-American population, which has been a struggle of the Sanders' campaign.

Poll numbers in South Carolina point Clinton's way by double digits. The Secretary of State has an 18% advantage over Sanders with 56% of South Carolina's support. Sanders, on the other hand, holds 38%.

A win in one of the two states would be major for Bernie Sanders, according to many political analysts, who say Clinton's campaign is slowly collapsing with each good thing Sanders and his team have happen to them.

On the Republican side, less drama is unfolding in South Carolina, where Donald Trump appears to have already claimed the top prize. The Republican Businessman holds 37% of the vote in a recent Bloomberg poll, compared to Cruz's 17%, a 19 point lead. Marco Rubio and Jeb Bush fall closely behind in the Palmetto State with 15%, and 13%, respectively.

In Nevada, the race is even less interesting, where Donald Trump leads Ted Cruz by 26 poll points.

But according to a new NBC Wall Street Journal poll out Wednesday, Ted Cruz now has a 1 point lead over Donald Trump nationally, where Cruz possesses 28% of the vote, and Trump trails with 27%. Marco Rubio holds third place with 17%, and Ohio Governor John Kasich follows in fourth place with 11%.

With both South Carolina and Nevada voting this weekend, experts say this could be a make or break weekend for many candidates, and say they wouldn't be surprised if a republican candidate drops out of the race after both states weigh in their votes.